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NEWS WORTH SHARING.

U.S. and Cuba to work on 'the art of living together'

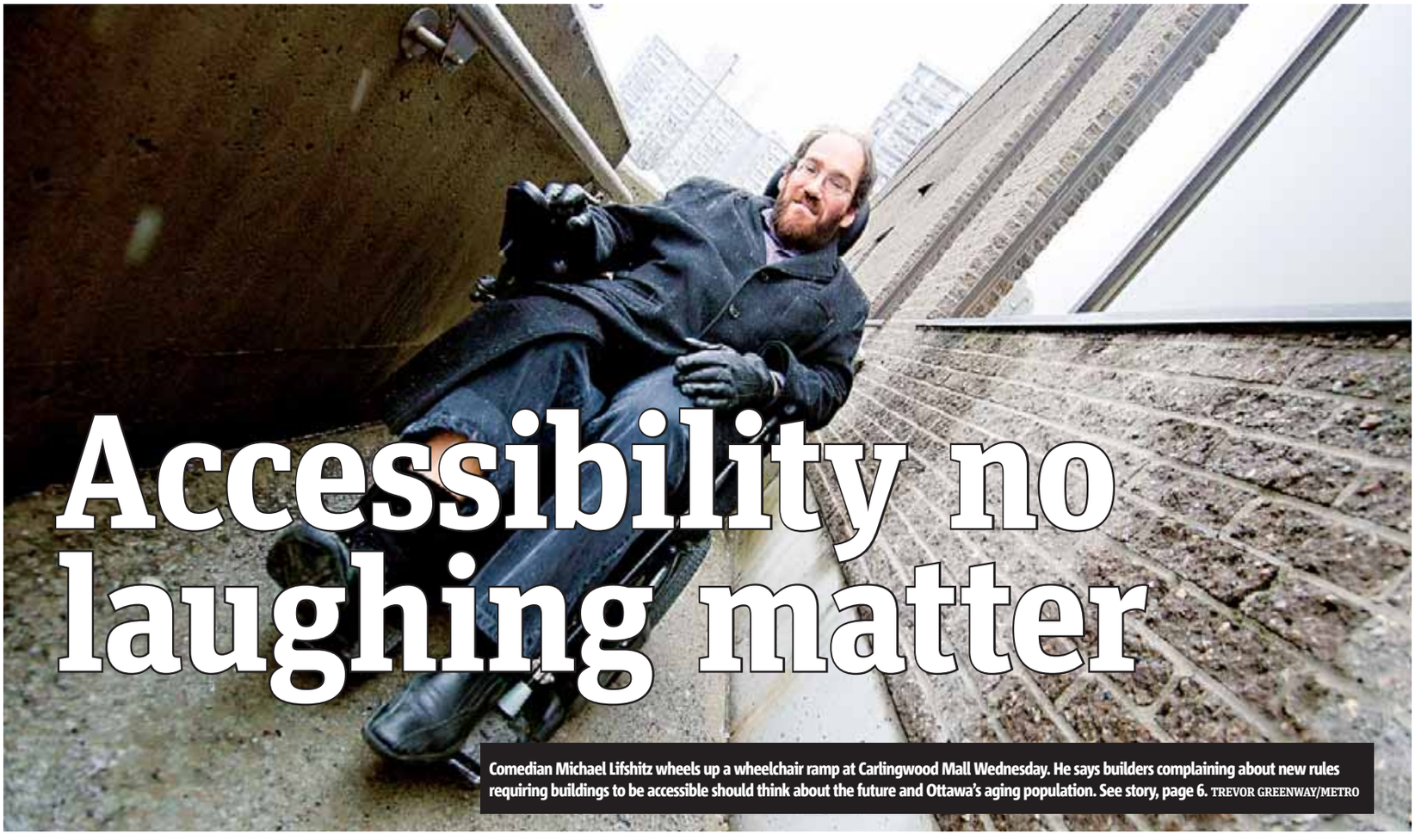
Watershed moment as Obama, Castro re-establish diplomatic relations PAGE 14

Media allowed to publish Rehtaeh Parsons' name again

AG eases ban; Special column from Parsons' father on its effects PAGES 10 & 18

Note by note, a New Year's resolution is nearly in sight

Ottawa musician Tyler Kealy on his goal of recording a song a day for a year PAGE 8



Accessibility no laughing matter

Comedian Michael Lifshitz wheels up a wheelchair ramp at Carlingwood Mall Wednesday. He says builders complaining about new rules requiring buildings to be accessible should think about the future and Ottawa's aging population. See story, page 6. TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO

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NEWS

Hostage crisis. Family recounts scary ordeal

It was a long 16 hours for Gloucester couple Marie and Mikhael Mikhael as they sat tearfully glued to the TV waiting for reports of their sister-in-law who was held hostage in a Sydney café this weekend.

Marcia Mikhael, a 43-year-old former University of Ottawa student, suffered a gunshot wound to her leg after she was trapped inside the Lindt Chocolat Café with 16 other hostages.

"A very frustrating situation for us. Very scary," said Marie Mikhael. The couple has yet to speak with Marcia, who's recovering from surgery.

During the siege, Marcia Mikhael appeared on video to make demands on behalf of captor Man Haron Monis.

She was born in Brazil and her husband George is from Ottawa. "On behalf of my dear wife Marcia and our family, I would like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude and appreciation to all those who have offered their prayers, thoughts and well wishes," Australian Broadcasting Corp. reported from a statement Wednesday. George said his wife "remains in good spirits."

LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

Former University of Ottawa student Marcia Mikhael FACEBOOK

'New approach' to guns, gangs

The City of Ottawa will install surveillance cameras in some parts of a west-end neighbourhood that's been rocked by shootings and gang activity in recent weeks.

It's one of the ideas to come out of a closed-door meeting Bay Ward Coun. Mark Taylor had this week with community partners to address an issue his constituents have dealt with for years.

But this year has seen a record number of shootings and many have occurred near Ritchie Street and Penny Drive, known hot spots for street gang activity.

"It peaks and (ebbs), but these communities have been dealing with this for over two decades," said Taylor.

"The strategies that we have clearly have not worked well enough, so we're going to take a new approach."

The new approach comes as Ottawa police are increasing their patrols in the area. But Taylor said more officers alone can't solve problems associated with street gangs.

Local agencies like Ottawa Community Housing and the Michelle Heights Community and others agreed on Tuesday to deploy the Problem Address Framework, which calls for greater information sharing and for preventing youth from joining gangs.

Coun. Mark Taylor, right, speaks about a rise in shootings in the city's west end. JOE LOFARO/METRO

For example, now when police are called to a social housing residence, Ottawa Community Housing has to be notified — something Taylor said was never done in the past.

In a statement published on Taylor's website, Ottawa police Insp. Sterling Hartley said, "Our Service knows that tackling the issues of guns and gangs has to be shared with the community."

In January, Taylor is inviting the public to a meeting to see what impact these changes have made in the community.

JOE LOFARO/METRO

Doodler draws her way into mayor's Christmas

Card contest. Young St. Jerome student wins city-wide competition

LUCY SCHOLEY
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Kaitlyn Hughes sometimes gets scolded for doodling in class, but the 11-year-old's artistic passion has earned her recognition outside school and inside the mayor's office.

The St. Jerome Catholic School student won the 2014 Mayor's Christmas Card Contest. Her drawing of a group of kids skating on the Sens Rink of Dreams at City Hall will appear on Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson's Christmas cards.

With Gloucester-Southgate Coun. Michael Qaqish, Watson presented Hughes with a framed copy of the card at City Hall on Wednesday.

"You even put the little city logo there," Watson said, pointing to the corner of the card.

The Grade 6 student said she likes skating and was inspired by "people having fun in the winter."

Meeting the mayor, she said, was "awesome" but "a little nerve-wracking ... because I'm going to be on TV."

The children depicted are anonymous skaters. She said she heard about the city contest through a teacher at school and several classmates submitted drawings.

Hughes spends a lot of time drawing, usually creating one or two pictures a day. This one only took her about an hour, she said.

This is the second contest the arts-minded student has won. She once placed first for a Remembrance Day poetry contest at the Royal Canadian Legion in Manotick.

Mayor Jim Watson, left, and Coun. Michael Qaqish present Kaitlyn Hughes with a copy of her card at City Hall. Also pictured is her brother Troy. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

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Capital Pride members vote to declare bankruptcy after all

Amount owed still unclear. Interim board member says group too large and complex to be run by volunteers

LUCY SCHOLEY
lucy.scholey@metronews.ca

The Capital Pride festival is now going bankrupt.

At the annual general meeting on Wednesday night, members voted 41 to 5, with three abstentions, to declare bankruptcy on the beleaguered festival.

The previous Capital Pride board — which came under fire following this year's festival for allegedly failing to pay several sponsors — had planned on declaring bankruptcy last month. But the decision was met with backlash at the annual general meeting. Members voted to delay declaring bankruptcy, dissolve the board, choose an interim board and postpone its annual general meeting.

The organization will dissolve by the end of the month and a trustee will assume the organization's debt.

But there's still confusion around how much Capital Pride owes.

At the meeting in November, the previous board said there was an $89,000 deficit. However, at the current meeting, a financial statement of operations revealed a $106,000 deficit.

Interim board member Peter Zanette, who has a "tiny bit" of bookkeeping experience, could not tell reporters the reasons for this discrepancy. He said he stepped up to volunteer his time on the board last month, since members of the crowd were hesitant to sign up. He will be responsible for filing for bankruptcy, which he will do so by the end of this month.

Zanette told the Capital Pride members he was unable to conduct a forensic audit of the finances, as he did not have the time and the volunteer-run organization lacks the resources.

He also praised former treasurer Gisele Gardipy as someone who acted professionally, despite media criticisms.

Interim board member Michael Wright said there are "structural flaws" in Capital Pride and that the festival has become "too large and too complex" to be a volunteer-run organization.

At press time, Capital Pride members were still debating whether and how to create a new organization.

Revellers celebrate the end of the Capital Pride Week in Ottawa with a parade in August. TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO

Former sex worker calling for overnight drop-in centre

A former sex worker-turned-advocate is calling for a Vanier drop-in centre for people working the sex trade. Those people, she says, are noticing a heightened police presence since new legislation took effect Dec. 6.

A new centre would operate from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. and would serve as a safe space for sex workers who need to escape violence, seek counselling for mental health issues, or help with addictions.

Jennifer Bigelow says she left the sex trade after a violent attack by a client last year. At a luncheon in Ottawa on Wednesday, the International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers, she recounted the traumatic incident.

She said in the new year she is going to enroll in a social worker program and hopes to become a counsellor and work in a drop-in on Montreal Road — a place she says is a "high-traffic" area for sex workers.

"At 4 o'clock in the morning when it's raining and you have perverts driving around harassing you as well as two police cruisers, you need a place to go to. Or you've had a sh–ty date. You need a place to be," she said. "You need people who understand you. And not from 9 to 5."

Jennifer Bigelow wants Vanier to have a drop-in centre for sex workers who need mental health or addictions services. JOE LOFARO/METRO

Even though she is no longer working on the street, she still says "we" when talking about sex workers. "My heart is still on the streets with those girls. I lived it for so many years."

The new federal legislation, Bill C-36, targets johns and pimps by making the purchase of sex illegal. The government also lauds the bill for making it easier for vulnerable women to exit prostitution.

But Bigelow disagrees with the suggestion from the Conservative government that sex workers should be viewed as victims and argues the new laws will force them more underground in unsafe conditions.

"Us women are not victims. We chose to do this. We chose to put on our high heels, paint our faces, fill our purse with condoms and go out," said Bigelow. "The profession isn't going to go away. The girls are always going to be out there."

JOE LOFARO/METRO

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Ottawa photographer Steve Gerecke is seen here in October in front of a Scotiabank located on Sussex Drive. Gerecke says being shut out of buildings such as this happens all the time to people with disabilities.

PHOTO COURTESY STEVE GERECKE

BEING SHUT OUT OF CITY'S BUILDINGS:

'LIKE A PUNCH IN THE FACE,' SAYS PHOTOGRAPHER WITH DISABILITY

Building access. Ottawa residents with disabilities are lauding changes to provincial building codes

TREVOR GREENWAY
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Steve Gerecke says it's like a "punch in the face" when he can't access a public building because it doesn't have a wheelchair ramp. It happens all the time.

The Ottawa photographer, who has a disability, says changes to the province's building code that will force contractors to design condos, apartments and public spaces that are more accessible to people with disabilities are a good start, but there is a lot more to be done to make Ottawa an accessible place to live.

"It's gotten better, but there are a lot of limitations still," said Gerecke, explaining how he can't frequent scores of restaurants, cafes, banks and bars in the city that don't have ramps. "When you really need to get in somewhere, it's really frustrating."

The province is modifying the Ontario building code Jan. 1, 2015, to require new condo and apartment buildings, community centres, churches and commercial buildings to include things like wider doorways, elevators, visual smoke alarms and power doors.

The new rules will only apply to new construction or "extensive renovations," and won't apply to houses. This is where Gerecke says the province stopped short.

"What about all the other ones, the older buildings?" he asked. "This happens all the time. It's almost like a punch in the face."

Stand-up comic and motivational speaker Michael Lifshitz says he doesn't feel sorry for contractors who bemoan the increased cost of building for accessibility and says the new legislation will benefit not only seniors and those with disabilities, but eventually everyone.

"As you age, you are going to have more mobility challenges," said Lifshitz, who suffers from multiple congenital musculoskeletal abnormalities and uses a wheelchair most of the time.

"If you live to a nice, ripe old age, this is going to be an issue for you. We are in an aging population. We should be making our society more accessible, be it commerce places, places of business, because people do need to get around."

Some Ontario builders told Metro last week that the new changes would result in higher prices and bigger footprints for condos in Ontario, but Lifshitz doesn't buy the argument.

"I find it somewhat laughable that, in 2015, we actually have a resistance to the concept of making buildings accessible to people with disabilities," said Lifshitz.

Breaking down the costs

Accessible features are inexpensive: Consultant

An Ottawa-based housing consultant says building accessible homes is not only inexpensive, but also allows seniors to stay in their own homes instead of having to move to retirement homes.

A certified aging-in-place specialist with the Ottawa VisitAbility Task Force, Roger Gervais is thrilled with changes to Ontario building codes that will force contractors to design condos, apartments and public spaces with better accessibility — elevators, power doors and wider door frames — but he doesn't think the legislation goes far enough.

The problem with the changes is they exempt houses, he says. With 16 per cent of Ontarians having some form of a disability and the number set to increase with age, Gervais says, the need for accessibility will only grow.

"We cannot keep building homes full of architectural barriers, knowing that we are walking into this huge housing crisis," said Gervais.

"We are looking at millions and millions of Canadians with mobility challenges that would benefit from these features.

According to VisitAbility Housing, the cost of installing zero step entrances on a new home is under $250, while wider doorways could be installed for $5 per door.

An accessible washroom on the main floor of a new home wouldn't incur any additional costs, unless it included grab bars or other features.

TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO

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Daily grind turns into daily jam

A year in the life. Tyler Kealey rebooted his musical passion by recording a music video every day

BACKSTAGE PASS
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Around this time last year, local musician Tyler Kealey was reflecting on his career and starting to think it was time for a bit of a change.

"It was bothering me that I was having trouble selling my original CDs and booking festivals, but, at the same time, getting countless offers for weddings and cover gigs, tips for playing covers," he says.

Realizing he needed to do something to rekindle his passion for music and keep his creative mind sharp, Kealey set a lofty goal for himself — he would record a song and post the video online every day for an entire year, a challenge he has now nearly completed.

Online

Check out Tyler Kealey's videos at tylerkealey.com/videos

"Instead of beating myself up over the fact that my original music hasn't taken off, I decided to focus on celebrating all of the music I love, whether it's covers or my own," says Kealey.

"A lot of people thought it was ambitious and, I'm guessing, weren't sure if I'd be able to keep it up and, in fact, I wasn't sure myself," he admits, adding that finding the time was obviously the biggest challenge.

Over the past year, in addition to his original songs, Kealey has recorded everything from Neil Young, Queen and Bob Dylan to Anne Murray, Bruno Mars and Alan Jackson. He's even recorded his own version of Cruella de Vil from the Disney movie 101 Dalmatians and other kid-friendly tunes.

"I've done a few songs with my son, from when he was just learning to walk at the beginning of the year and I'm singing to him from the bathtub, and now he's playing along on the piano with me to a Raffi song."

Collaborations with other local artists have also proven to be popular videos on Kealey's YouTube page, including a recent Fleetwood Mac cover he did with members of Amos the Transparent and a version of Werewolves of London he recorded with Shawn Tavenier of Silver Creek at Saunders Farm, where the two used to work as "strolling minstrels."

With his year-long challenge now wrapping up, Kealey admits he feels he has accomplished what he set out to do.

"I've learned what I can do with little time and I've also learned to let go a little bit."

Musician Tyler Kealey has recorded a video every day this year. COURTESY MELANIE KEALEY

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Trial. Jury continues to deliberate Magnotta's fate

The jury at Luka Rocco Magnotta's murder trial appeared to focus on the mental disorder defence Wednesday as it asked a pointed question before ending a second day of deliberations without a verdict.

"Is a personality disorder a disease of the mind as a matter of law?" the jurors asked the judge as they emerged from their deliberations.

Quebec Superior Court Justice Guy Cournoyer answered "yes" and sent them back to deliberate further.

Magnotta has admitted to killing and dismembering Jun Lin in May 2012 but his lawyer argues he should be found not criminally responsible because he is schizophrenic and couldn't tell right from wrong.

The judge had told the jurors that they should start their work by focusing on the not criminally responsible issue.

Cournoyer also said they would need to answer two questions for the mental disorder defence to be accepted. Firstly, is it more likely than not Magnotta was suffering from a mental disorder at the time of the offence? And secondly, did the disorder make him incapable of knowing the acts were wrong? THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alberta

Wildrose leader, 8 others to join PCs

Alberta's Opposition leader and eight of her Wildrose caucus members are joining the government of Premier Jim Prentice.

A joint news release says Danielle Smith resigned as Wildrose leader Wednesday and "the caucuses have agreed to unite under a set of aligned values and principles." Prentice and Smith are calling the move the "unification of Alberta's conservatives."

The defections leave the Wildrose with five sitting members in the legislature. The Liberals also have five members and the NDP have four. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'We can attach her name again to this conversation'

Rehtaeh Parsons. A directive from the Nova Scotia attorney general allows name of teen cyberbullying victim to be reported

Rehtaeh Parsons is shown in a handout photo. HO-FACEBOOK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

When a judge placed a publication ban on Rehtaeh Parsons' identity, Glen Canning began wearing a T-shirt to court bearing his daughter's name in a campaign that ended Wednesday as reporting restrictions in the child pornography case were eased.

For Canning, a directive from Nova Scotia's attorney general allowing Parsons' name to be reported was a relief.

"We can attach her name again to this conversation and that's just fantastic," Canning said.

Attorney General Lena Metlege Diab says breaches of the ban by the media or in other forums will not be prosecuted, unless the girl's name is used in a derogatory way.

A judge put the mandatory ban on Parsons' identity in May in the case of two young men who were charged with child pornography offences, even though he said his decision "serves no purpose" because both of the girls' parents wanted her identity public and her case had been widely reported.

Last month, the Halifax Chronicle-Herald identified Parsons as the victim in the case when one of the young men pleaded guilty in youth court. He will be sentenced in January for distributing a sexually graphic image of the teenaged girl, who died last year following a suicide attempt.

The other young man was given a conditional discharge for making child pornography.

Canning said he believes the decision by the Chronicle-Herald and at least two other media outlets to publish his daughter's name tipped the balance. He said the ban shut down debate on the issues of the case and the confusion even led some high schools to cancel his appearances to talk about cyberbullying.

Canning said the decision would also help free up the work of an organization he started last month with Rehtaeh's mother, Leah Parsons. The Rehtaeh Parsons Society aims to address the prevalence of cyberbullying, youth sexual violence and the distribution of images among young people. THE CANADIAN PRESS

To read about Glen Canning's struggle with the publication ban, see page 18

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Free trip around the world? It's all in a name

Toronto. Nova Scotia woman with the same name as man's ex-girlfriend gets a world-spanning plane ticket

A Toronto man has finally found Ms. Right — sort of.

Last May Jordan Axani, 28, and his then girlfriend, named Elizabeth Gallagher, booked heavily discounted round-the-world air tickets, but their relationship ended and he didn't want her ticket to go to waste. The ticket had a strict no-transfer policy, but since passport information was not required when booking, it can be used by any Canadian named Elizabeth Gallagher.

Axani posted his offer last month on the popular Reddit social media website, and received thousands of emails, including 18 from actual Elizabeth Gallaghers with Canadian passports.

He's now chosen his travel mate, Elizabeth Quinn Gallagher, a 23-year-old from Cole Harbour, Nova Scotia.

"It's strictly a platonic trip. It's going to be great," Axani said.

At first the new Elizabeth Gallagher thought a trip with a stranger whose ex-girlfriend's name is the same as hers was "crazy" but she hit it off with Axani after talking on the phone with him for hours.

The trip is scheduled to start Dec. 21 in New York City and continue on to Milan, Prague, Paris, Bangkok and New Delhi before ending in Toronto on Jan. 12. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Elizabeth Gallagher won a ticket around the world with Jordan Axani. CONTRIBUTED

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Federal regulations

New measures aim to reduce rail-crossing crashes

The federal government has introduced long-awaited regulations aimed at reducing deadly train collisions at level crossings.

The regulations, to take full effect over the next seven years, establish consistent grade crossing safety standards across Canada and clarify the responsibilities of rail companies and road authorities.

Transport Canada says the regulations will improve safety at approximately 14,000 public and 9,000 private grade crossings along 42,650 kilometres of railway track.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Landing in Halifax

Flight cut short, RCMP cite unruly passenger

Police were called to the Halifax Stanfield International Airport on Wednesday over an unruly passenger who allegedly assaulted two flight attendants on an Air Canada flight to Toronto from London.

RCMP spokesman Sgt. Al Leblanc said the flight made an unscheduled landing at the airport just before 12:30 p.m. He said a 30-year-old woman from South Africa was taken into custody from the plane for allegedly assaulting two flight attendants.

No other details were provided.

METRO

S-221. Proposed bill targets transit assault

People who assault transit drivers can expect to do more jail time in 2015, provided a new bill becomes law.

Sponsored by Sen. Bob Runciman, the Bill S-221 would encourage judges to hand down stricter sentences to those convicted of attacking bus drivers and other transit operators.

Runciman said assaulting transit workers puts the entire public at risk.

"2011 is the last year we have stats for, but there were over 2,000 reported assaults, 80 per cent of which were in the vehicle," he said. "And in that case, it's not just the driver who is in danger. It could be a pedestrian, a cyclist or someone in a car travelling in the other direction."

The Conservative senator introduced the bill last fall. It's since passed the Senate and Runciman is confident it will become law by February.

Brad Ross, a spokesman for the Toronto Transit Commission, said Bill S-221 has the full support of the TTC.

"On average, about one TTC employee is assaulted or threatened every day over a matter of less than $3," Ross told Metro.

On Wednesday morning, a TTC bus driver in Toronto was beaten and robbed by a would-be passenger following what police described as a "fare dispute."

The man reportedly dragged the driver to the ground outside the bus and kicked him repeatedly before fleeing. The driver was taken to hospital but is expected to recover.

The suspect remains at large, but the TTC has given police security footage of the incident.

"Police take these matters as seriously as we do and we are confident the assailant will be apprehended," Ross said. LUKE SIMCOE/METRO

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School massacre. Pakistan buries, mourns victims

As they buried their children Wednesday, the families spoke of their dreams. One boy had just gotten high marks on his midterm and hoped to become a pilot. A 13-year-old wanted to become a doctor. Another kid just loved playing video games with his cousins.

At cemeteries across the Pakistani city of Peshawar, families lowered the rough wooden coffins of young boys and their teachers into the cold ground and gathered under funeral tents or at home, trying to comprehend the militant attack on a school a day earlier that killed 148 people, almost all of them young students.

The Pakistani government and military vowed a stepped up campaign aimed at rooting out militant strongholds in the country's tribal regions along the border with Afghanistan.

The Pakistani Taliban, which has waged an insurrection against the government for a decade, claimed responsibility. The group says it was seeking revenge for a military assault launched in June in North Waziristan. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pakistani Christians hold up candles to pay tribute to the victims killed in Tuesday's Taliban attack on a military-run school in Peshawar, as they participate in a candlelight vigil Wednesday. K.M. CHAUDARY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S., Cuba mend relations after 50 years of tension

Historic agreement. Announcement follows more than a year of secret talks

President Barack Obama abruptly announced the U.S. is re-establishing long-broken diplomatic relations with Cuba on Wednesday, declaring an end to America's "outdated approach" to the Communist island in a historic shift aimed at ending a half-century of Cold War enmity.

"These 50 years have shown that isolation has not worked," Obama said in remarks from the White House. "It's time for a new approach."

As Obama spoke to Americans, Cuban President Raul Castro addressed his own nation from Havana, where bells pealed and schoolchildren interrupted their lessons to mark the historic news. Castro said that while the two countries still have profound differences in areas such as human rights and foreign policy, they must learn "the art of living together in a civilized manner."

Wednesday's announcement followed more than a year of secret talks between the U.S. and Cuba, including clandestine meetings in Canada and the Vatican and personal involvement from Pope Francis. Setting the stage for the diplomatic breakthrough, Cuba released American Alan Gross, who had been imprisoned for five years, and a Cuban who had spied for the U.S. In exchange, three Cubans jailed in Florida were released by the U.S.

Gross spoke with Obama from the plane carrying him home, then met with Secretary of State John Kerry on the ground and later appeared before Washington reporters.

In Havana, Carlos Gonzalez, a 32-year-old information technology specialist, spoke for many in calling the announcement "a shot of oxygen, a wish come true."

"It is an advance that will open the road to a better future for the two countries," he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Manuel Lopez watches a Spanish television network's coverage of Cuba President Raul Castro's speech inside his cigar shop, Wednesday in Union City, N.J. JULIO CORTEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"This is game-changing .... Two wrongs never make a right. I truly hope that we can now get beyond these mutually belligerent policies."

U.S. contractor Alan Gross, imprisoned in Cuba for five years

Libby Lane

Church names first female bishop

The Church of England on Wednesday named the first female bishop in its 500-year history, promoting saxophone-playing, soccer-loving vicar Libby Lane to bishop of Stockport. The announcement came five months after the church ended a long and divisive dispute by voting to allow women to serve as bishops. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Inquiry

Soldiers mistreated Iraqi detainees

A judge-led inquiry on Wednesday found British soldiers mistreated nine Iraqi detainees after a 2004 battle, but it rejected allegations that soldiers murdered and tortured prisoners. The inquiry concluded that British soldiers used methods such as blindfolding prisoners and depriving them of food and sleep during questioning at Camp Abu Naji in southern Iraq. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Siege. Gunman was once on Aussies' watch list

The gunman responsible for a deadly siege in a Sydney café was once on the national security agency's watch list, but was dropped off it years ago for reasons that remain unclear, Australia's prime minister said Wednesday.

Man Haron Monis, a 50-year-old Iranian-born, self-styled cleric described by Prime Minister Tony Abbott as deeply disturbed, took 17 people hostage inside a downtown Sydney café on Monday. Sixteen hours later, the siege ended in a barrage of gunfire when police rushed in to free the captives.

Two hostages were killed along with Monis.

Abbott said Monis was on the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation's watch list in 2008 and 2009, but was later dropped from it.

The agency was watching Monis because he had sent a series of offensive letters to the families of dead Australian soldiers, Abbott said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Geneva. Israel suffers sharp rebuffs in Europe

Israel suffered back-to-back diplomatic setbacks in Europe on Wednesday as Palestinians headed to the United Nations to try to set a two-year deadline for an Israeli withdrawal.

In Geneva, the international community delivered a stinging rebuke to Israel's settlement construction in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, saying the practice violates Israel's responsibilities as an occupying power.

The declaration — adopted by the conference of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which governs the rules of war and military occupation — emphasized a prohibition on colonizing occupied land and insisted that international humanitarian law be obeyed in areas affected by the conflict between Israel and Palestinians.

It called for "all serious violations" to be investigated and those responsible for breaches to be brought to justice. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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NEXUS. Travel to U.S. to be easier for some Canadians

Travelling to the United States by air will be easier for some Canadian passengers, thanks to a new federal government initiative unveiled Wednesday.

NEXUS card holders and other low-risk trusted travellers who have already undergone extensive background checks will have access to dedicated screening lines at four of the country's busiest airports, Transport Minister Lisa Raitt said.

The trusted travellers include members of the Canadian and American armed forces, uniformed airline crews and members of the U.S. Global Entry travel program. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dedicated screening

The dedicated screening lines are now available at Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto and Montreal airports and eligible travellers can go through them without having to remove their shoes, belts, hats or jackets.

- They will also be allowed to keep liquids, aerosols and gels in their carry-on bags.

Fuel. Canadian oilsands exporters survive EU vote

Canadian oilsands exporters narrowly survived a vote in the European Parliament on Wednesday that could have once again penalized Alberta bitumen as dirty oil.

A proposed fuel quality directive for European Union refineries has been the subject of a well-funded Canadian lobbying campaign for more than two years.

Canadian negotiators thought the matter was settled this fall when the European Commission backed off and decided all European feedstock crude would be assigned common carbon intensity values, without singling out higher intensity sources such as Canadian bitumen.

However, the European Parliament's environment committee flatly rejected the proposal earlier this month, forcing Wednesday's vote. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

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Sony Pictures cancels The Interview release

Controversy. Following terrorist threats by hackers, the studio has shelved the movie

James Franco, centre left, as Dave, and Seth Rogen as Aaron, in Columbia Pictures' The Interview. COLUMBIA PICTURES-SONY, ED ARAQUEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Sony Pictures has cancelled the Dec. 25 release of The Interview after hackers threatened terror attacks and the largest multiplex chains in North America pulled the film from its screens.

In a statement Wednesday, Sony said it was cancelling The Interview release "in light of the decision by the majority of our exhibitors not to show the film." The studio, which has been shaken by hacker leaks over the past several weeks, said it respected and shared in the exhibitors' concerns.

"We are deeply saddened at this brazen effort to suppress the distribution of a movie, and in the process do damage to our company, our employees, and the American public," read the statement. "We stand by our filmmakers and their right to free expression and are extremely disappointed by this outcome."

Earlier Wednesday, Regal Cinemas, AMC Entertainment and Cinemark Theatres — the three top theatre chains in North America — announced that they were postponing any showings of The Interview, a comedy about a TV host (James Franco) and producer (Seth Rogen) tasked by the CIA to assassinate North Korea leader Kim Jung-un (played by Randall Park). THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pet fashion is no joke

These clothing designers have to think about pattern, fabric and fit — as well as where to put the poo bags.

Creating on-trend outfits is a whole different animal for pet fashion designers, whose work is becoming mainstream as animal lovers look to further pamper their pets. For some owners, it's a statement; for others, it's a way to match man's best friend; and sometimes it's simply about keeping animals warm this winter. But it's clear the number of dressed-up dogs and cats jumps significantly once holiday photos need to be taken.

"We have gone from the kind of cute reindeer gear or ugly sweater to more functional clothing," said Lauren Darr, founder of the International Association of Pet Fashion Professionals in New York City. "Before it was for a cute picture, now it's more practical. It takes it to a different level, going from being a novelty to understanding how things can be used in everyday life."

A dog in American Beagle Outfitters items. COURTESY AMERICAN EAGLE OUTFITTERS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pet fashion got a leg up after American Eagle Outfitters received an outpouring from its April Fool's Day joke this year. To raise money and awareness for an animal welfare group, the popular retailer introduced a fake fashion line called American Beagle Outfitters. But the joke was on the Pittsburgh company.

"Our customers were very clear about their desire for this product to become a reality," company spokesman Michael Leedy said last month when welcoming the pet line for real. Its tiny puffy jackets, sweaters and hats sell for $12.95 to $39.95 US. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Financial issues

We can redeploy SpiceJet planes: Bombardier

Export Development Canada and Bombardier both say they won't take a big financial hit as a result of financial troubles facing SpiceJet, India's low-cost airline.

The EDC, a federal credit agency which helped finance the lease of 15 Bombardier Q400 turboprops by the airline, said its investment is protected since the planes would be remarketed elsewhere if SpiceJet ultimately folds. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Due to labour dispute

McDonald's rations fries in Japan

Only small fries with that? McDonald's in Japan is limiting the serving size of fries as stocks run short due to labour disruptions on the U.S. West Coast. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BlackBerry. CEO tries to revive the 'CrackBerry'

While BlackBerry's latest smartphone might look familiar, chief executive John Chen said Wednesday the new Classic model is hardly a "rehash" of old technology.

The head of the Waterloo, Ont.-based company stood before an audience in New York on Wednesday and told them he was responding to requests from some of BlackBerry's most loyal customers, such as the leaders of major U.S. banks.

"A lot of them pulled out their BlackBerry ... and told me 'Don't mess around with this thing. Don't mess around with the keyboard, don't mess around with the track pad,' " Chen said.

Reaching back to the heyday of the "CrackBerry" was a conscious decision by Chen to drag BlackBerry users, who have clung to their old and worn BlackBerry Bold and Curve models, into the next generation of the device. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Allergies. Parker gives $24M for research

Napster co-founder Sean Parker missed most of his final year in high school and has ended up in the emergency room countless times because of his deadly allergy to nuts, shellfish and other foods.

Now that the former Facebook president is the father of two small children who have a genetic basis to develop allergies, he says he wants to help find a lasting cure to allergies.

Parker announced Wednesday that he is donating $24 million over the next two years to establish an allergy research centre at the Stanford University School of Medicine.

"We have been applying Band-Aids for decades by using antihistamines to treat symptoms instead of going after the root cause of allergies," Parker said.

The Sean N. Parker Center for Allergy Research will focus on understanding the dysfunctions of the immune system that result in allergic reactions and on finding the safest and best treatments for allergies through laboratory and data research, clinical trials and community outreach. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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VOICES

HER NAME IS REHTAEH PARSONS

The father of the late Rehtaeh Parsons explains why he has reason to smile today after the courts said people can publish his daughter's name — as long as they do so with respect

GLEN CANNING
readers@metronews.ca

My daughter's name is Rehtaeh Parsons. I can send this column to Metro knowing it won't be redacted or the article refused for violating a publication ban.

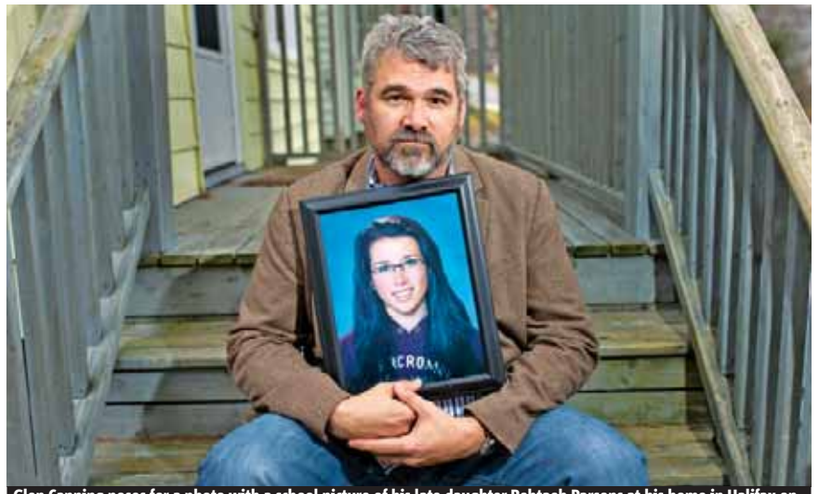
I can finally say her name without the uneasiness of breaking the law and being charged.

Since April I lived with the fear of having a police officer knock on my door and tell me I'm under arrest. To be honest, that fear included the look on the officer's face telling me police thought the ban as ridiculous as I did.

Everyone knows Rehtaeh's name but for the past eight months, no one wanted to come out and say it. Even her friends feared they would be arrested for wishing Rehtaeh a happy birthday on Facebook. That's how grey it was.

It has been a dark cloud to live under: Having high schools cancel talks about cyberbullying and consent because there was a publication ban in effect; the media erasing her name from the Internet; television segments showing my blurred face as I spoke about my daughter with her name bleeped out.

It was frustrating, to say the least. But today we finally have something to smile about.



Glen Canning poses for a photo with a school picture of his late daughter Rehtaeh Parsons at his home in Halifax on Wednesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Rehtaeh Parsons is her name — my daughter's name. I can say it now, and write it now, and talk about her openly on the radio, on television, in print, and online.

Wednesday morning, I meet with the Nova Scotia Attorney General and Minister of Justice Lena Diab, as well as the Director of Public Prosecutions Martin Herschorn.

They had asked to meet with me and Rehtaeh's mom, Leah, on Monday. When the meeting started, Minister Diab didn't waste any time — they were going to issue a directive on the publication ban on Rehtaeh's name.

After everything that happened in the past year, I had no expectations going in — not one. Before the meeting I wrote on Twitter "Rehtaeh Parsons is her name. Today I'm hoping to get my daughter's name back."

You're reading her name now because that wish came true. Her name is back. It was an emotional moment when Diab told us what they were about to do and read the statement she was about to release.

"If Ms. Parsons' name is used in a respectful way, the Director of Public Prosecutions will not prosecute any violation of the ban." If we were asked to word it, the release would be exactly the same.

Today I can at least smile a little. People showed courage and leadership and stood up for us and our daughter. As soon as I left the meeting, I called Halifax freelance journalist Ryan Van Horne and thanked him. He took a big risk when he put himself out there and broke the ban on Rehtaeh's name.

I loved my daughter with all my heart and soul. There will never be another Rehtaeh Parsons — not in name, not in the way she lived, and not in the way she died.

Being able to openly and honestly talk about her and her story will go a long way in making sure of that.

Ruling on cellphone searches

The Supreme Court recently ruled that police can look at your cellphone without a warrant. Metro reached out to two experts for analysis of the decision

HAVE A CELLPHONE? READ THIS

Lorne Goldstein, lawyer

Anyone who takes pictures, writes emails, keeps notes or does Internet searches on a cellphone should pay attention to the recent decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in the case of Her Majesty the Queen v. Fearon.

The judges ruled 4-3 that the contents of a cellphone can be searched incident to an arrest if (1) the arrest is lawful, (2) the search is actually incidental to the arrest and not for some other hidden purpose, (3) the nature and extent of the search are particular to the purpose of the arrest, and (4) the police take careful notes so that the search can be reviewed by a judge at trial.

The extent of the police search was of particular concern to the dissenting justices who recognized the unique nature of cellphones and the information they carry. However, the majority were content to set the law broadly and trust the police to exercise self-restraint.

It remains to be seen how many clicks on the photo icon or the Safari search history menu is too many.

In the Fearon case, the phone was unlocked. Future cases will have to consider how much pressure the arresting officers can put on a detainee to unlock his phone for the purposes of a search.

If the now lawful search would be frustrated by a password, can the police compel the owner to unlock the phone in the same way they can compel the driver of a car to open a door?

This question, and others, will have to be answered by trial judges seeking to apply the new law where the rubber meets the road: The courtrooms. *Lorne Goldstein is a partner at Abergel Goldstein & Partners, a Certified Specialist in Criminal Law and a part-time professor at the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law.*

A CHILLING IMPLICATION

James Turner, crime journalist

It would be far easier to stomach the Supreme Court's new guidelines for warrantless police searches of cellphones if every arrest investigators made led to a charge and then public prosecution.

But that's not the way our justice system works — and the top court's ruling last Friday leaves a potential for serious police overreach into the private lives of citizens for the sheer sake of gathering intelligence.

It's not difficult to see how the process of holding police to account for these searches could become somewhat murky, and a door to potential misconduct could crack open. This is so because it's not always the case people placed under arrest will be charged with a crime and prosecuted in open court, where a cellphone search can be challenged and police conduct scrutinized. Even if no charge is laid, police still net the opportunity to search a phone and catalogue for their own uses what information they found on it.

What's dangerous is that the person arrested and released without charge has no recourse to challenge the validity of the search in court or have their privacy restored; once their privacy's been taken, it's gone.

"What a police officer sees simply cannot be unseen, even if there is justification provided after the fact," Toronto lawyer Omar Ha-Redeye wrote in a thoughtful commentary to the court's ruling. The implications of this are chilling. Given the vast amount of personal data we now store on cellphones, we were better off with police needing warrants to search them — just as they still must to search homes, computers and other personal, private property in most cases. *James Turner is a Winnipeg crime journalist and journalism instructor. He's on Twitter at @heyjturner.*

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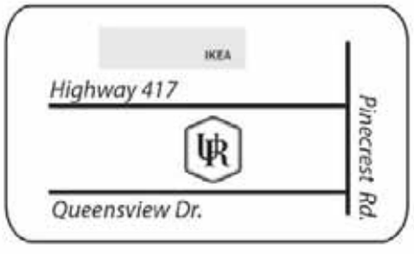

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Turning tragedy into comix

Books. Art Spiegelman says the dark, personal nature of his graphic novels lends itself to a different kind of storytelling

MIKE DONACHIE
mike.donachie@metronews.ca

Art Spiegelman likes telling long stories.

He's the creator of Maus, the only graphic novel ever to win a Pulitzer Prize. It is, by design, a long story.

Ask him about it, as Metro did during one of his rare visits to Canada, and it leads to a lengthy conversation about art, tragedy, and, inevitably, the Holocaust.

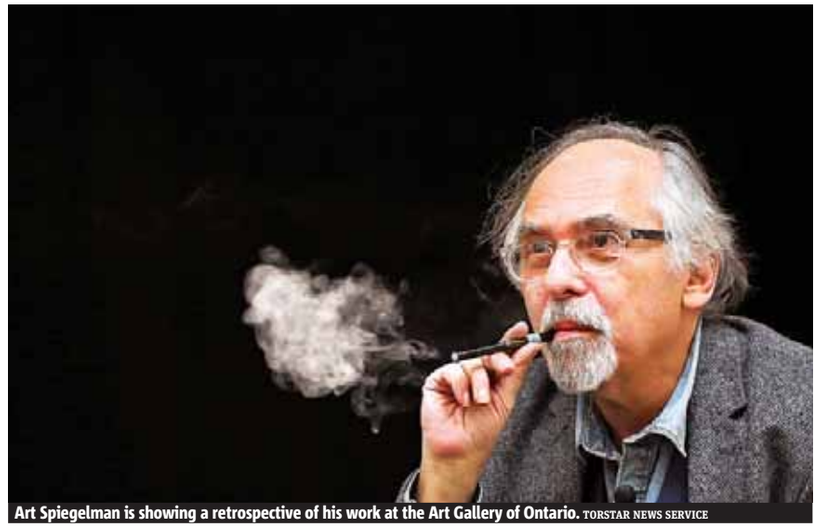
Spiegelman is a chatty man, which might come as a surprise to anyone who's read his intensely personal, dark works.

As he talks privately in a side room at the Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto, which is showing a retrospective of more than 300 pieces of his work, the former chain smoker puffs on an e-cigarette, looking distinguished with his waistcoat and grey goatee.

Earlier, in an interview with more members of the media, he chuckled when he talked about being "trapped" by Maus, the thing he made.

But it established him as one of the most important figures in his medium, gaining him a special Pulitzer in 1992.

The personal nature of Spiegelman's work is a vital part of it, he later says.



Art Spiegelman is showing a retrospective of his work at the Art Gallery of Ontario. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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It draws on his background as a seminal figure in North American underground comix, as he prefers to spell them.

"To be able to do comix that were personal seemed to invite and build a different kind of storytelling," he explains.

Maus is the story of his parents' experiences during the Holocaust, including their time at Auschwitz, and how Spiegelman interviewed his father about that time.

It came from an ambition to create "a very long comic book that needed a bookmark and could be reread."

Its creation is, in itself, a long story, starting in 1972 with Funny Animals, an underground comic that featured anthropomorphic creatures.

Invited to submit a story, Spiegelman chose a bedtime tale of Jewish life under Nazi Germany, entitling it Maus. It depicts Jews as mice and Nazis as cats.

Soon afterward, he wrote and drew Prisoner On The Hell Planet, as a way of recovering suppressed memories of his mother's suicide.

"I just grabbed paper and started getting it down as it came to me," Spiegelman says. "I had to do it."

By the end of the decade, the two works had come together in the longer-form Maus.

Interestingly, Spiegelman says he's "not that competent" as an illustrator. He's happy to call himself a "cartoonist" or "comics artist" but he's more of an all-round storyteller, changing his style each time he tackles a new subject. He calls it a "process of reinventing the wheel."

"Everything I do leaves me collapsing at the end and having to reinvent myself," he says.

"It's difficult to keep doing that as we move on in the world and your bones get weary."

Long career

The work of Art Spiegelman isn't limited to Maus, but he's no stranger to tough subjects.

- **He began with underground titles like Short Order Comix and many others, but created Raw magazine with his wife in the 1970s, serializing early parts of Maus.**
- **Other work has included Topps bubblegum cards, with the creation of the Garbage Pail Kids one highlight, and revitalizing the 1920s beat poem The Wild Party with his illustrations in a new edition.**
- **There are also his covers for the New Yorker, including the iconic 9/11 cover showing the black Twin Towers against a black sky, and an image of a Hassidic Jew kissing an African-American woman, published during a time of racial tension.**
- **The attacks of New York, just a few blocks from his home, were also the focus of the work In The Shadow Of No Towers.**

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Graphic novels. Hiddleston is the new favourite to play Morpheus in The Sandman

The Thor co-star and Only Lovers Left Alive lead Tom Hiddleston has emerged as Neil Gaiman's latest favourite for the role of The Sandman main character Morpheus — or, failing that, anyone else with an English accent and sufficiently good cheekbones. Long regarded as rich material for a film adaptation, plans for a screen adaptation of Gaiman's seminal graphic novel The Sandman gained renewed momentum this year.

A treatment by David Goyer (The Dark Knight, Batman v. Superman) was handed off to Jack Thorne, writer on multiple This Is England TV series as well as Nick Hornby adaptation A Long Way Down,

Morpheus in The Sandman
CONTRIBUTED

with Joseph Gordon-Levitt in a producer's role.

At one point it had been thought that Gordon-Levitt would take on the main part too, but with Gaiman publicly ruminating on other possible choices, that may not have been the case.

Gaiman has long been on the lookout for potential Morpheus actors, the author explained in conversation with the U.K.'s Radio Times.

"There was a time Johnny Depp would've been a great Morpheus, but now he's too old and it's fine."

AFP

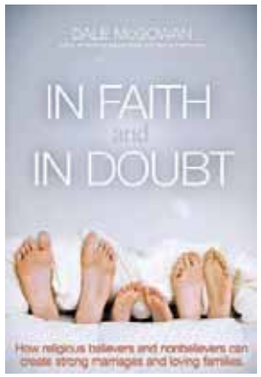
Helping interfaith couples make it through December

Advice. Author of In Faith and in Doubt says neither partner gets to declare that everything is non-negotiable

LAKSHMI GANDHI
Metro in New York City

The holidays can be particularly stressful for couples who don't share the same spiritual or religious views. Should an atheist attend midnight mass with the in-laws? Are Christmas trees or menorahs OK? Without clear expectations, getting through December with your nerves intact can be challenging.

"Everybody has to negotiate — neither partner can declare everything non-negotiable. That's not OK," says Dale McGowan, a longtime atheist and the author of the book In Faith and in Doubt. "What they have to do is pick and choose."



McGowan shares his thoughts on how couples can respect both of their belief systems and strengthen their relationship in the process.

Should everyone attend services?

McGowan says every couple should talk about their negotiables and non-negotiables. "My wife's extended family is quite religious and I go to church every year with my mother-in-law," explains McGowan, who says his wife was a Southern Baptist when they married 23 years ago. "For me, going to church with her was a perfectly fine compromise and a way to honour a part of our family."

Some things can't be compromised:

"If you have an atheist who had a painful separation from religion, it can be really difficult for someone to attend church," he says. "People have to respect that." If you or your partner feel like you absolutely cannot participate in religious activities, it's vital that you talk about it.

Mutual respect is key:

"Sometimes I hear people say, 'Sometimes I struggle with this because I can't respect what my partner believes.' But you don't have to agree on beliefs, what you do have to say is, 'I respect my partner.'"

Books

Ava Lee series heads to CBC TV

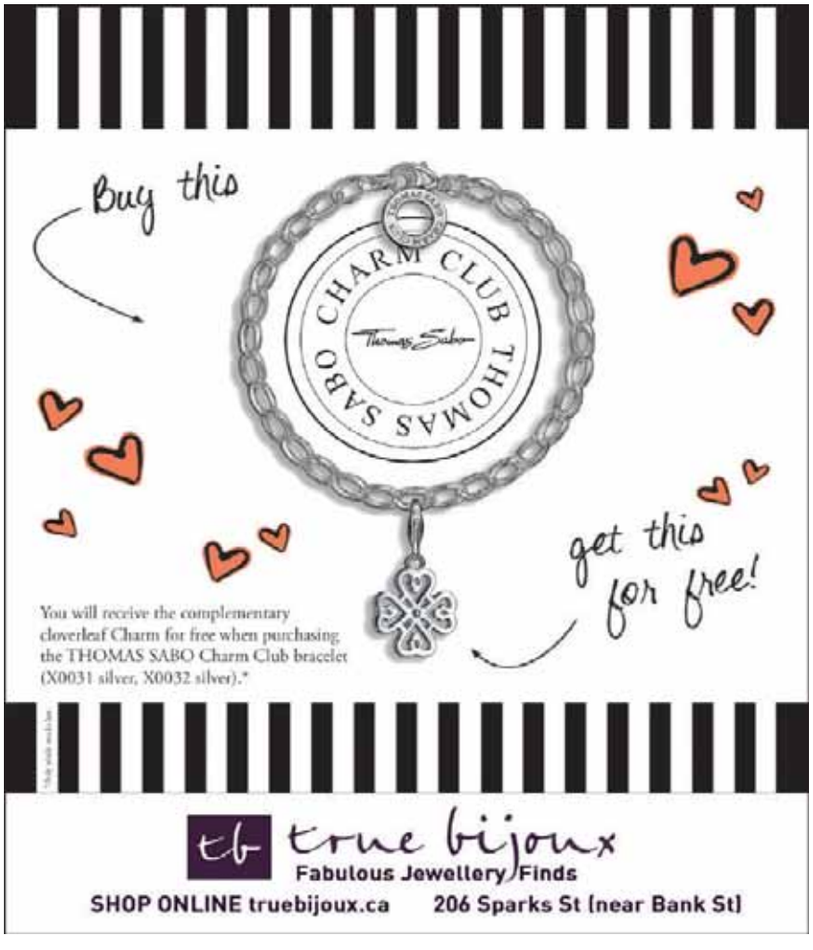
CBC-TV plans to adapt Canadian author Ian Hamilton's Ava Lee crime thriller series. The female protagonist is a fearless Chinese-Canadian forensic accountant who lives in Toronto and is gay. House of Anansi Press says Strada Films has struck a development deal with the CBC for a limited series.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Judy Blume pens book for adults

Judy Blume is returning to the grown-up section. The author's first adult novel since 1998 is coming out in June. Publisher Alfred A. Knopf announced Monday that the novel In the Unlikely Event will be set in the early 1950s in Blume's native New Jersey and will tell of a series of mysterious plane crashes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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Gossip

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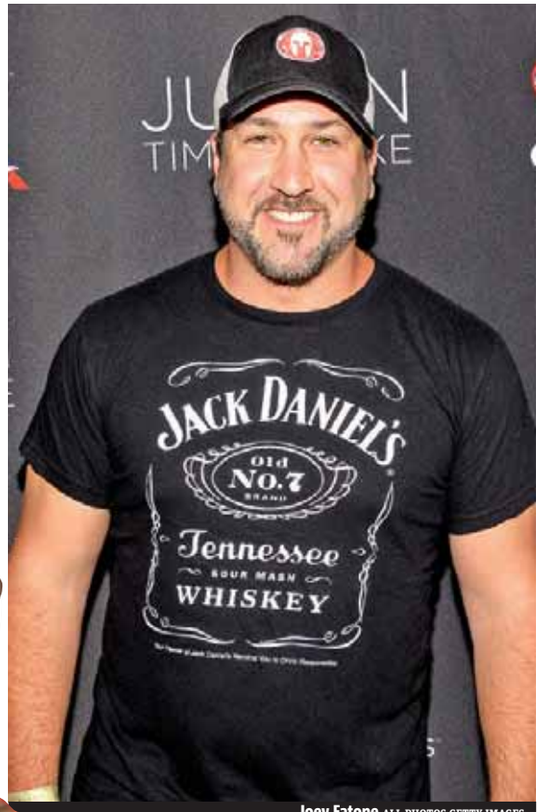

Joey Fatone ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Joey Fatone is out of sync on Justin and Jessica's baby news

There's at least one member of *NSYNC who might be dropped from Justin Timberlake and Jessica Biel's Christmas card list, as Joey Fatone went and announced the couple's pregnancy before they could.

"He told me a while ago, and I kept my mouth shut, but I can talk about it now," Fatone tells InTouch.

I'm just guessing here, Joey, but I'm pretty sure when Justin said you can talk about it now he didn't mean to a tabloid. Your baby shower gift better be pretty spectacular, is all I'm saying.

Fatone, by the way, is super-stoked for the couple. "Jessica is awesome, and Justin is a kid at heart," he says.

Yeah, about that. A less-identifiable source tells the National Enquirer that Biel is a bit concerned Timberlake isn't quite ready for all this parenting stuff.

"They've spent little time together during Jessica's pregnancy" because of Timberlake's ongoing concert tour, the source says. "Justin pretends he doesn't have a care, but you can see how antsy he is. He knows it won't be long before his life changes. Now she's concerned it might be more than Justin can handle." Rest assured, Fatone will let us know about it first.

They're real and they're spectacular

Britney Spears' new Woman's Health magazine cover was met nearly immediately by speculation that she'd benefited from some enhancement by the Photoshop department. So the magazine put out a video from behind the scenes of the shoot, hoping to put such talk to rest. And honestly, the woman's been doing a regular Vegas show for a while, so why are we skeptical of her abs being, as the magazine cover exclaims, "insane"? Yours would be, too, with that work schedule.

Angelina hires online bodyguard for brood

Angelina Jolie admits she's not terribly Internet-savvy, so to make sure her six kids are being safe online, she brings in professional help.

"We have someone who monitors that," she tells People magazine, explaining that neither she nor husband Brad Pitt have any sort of social media presence. "It's a scary world. It's so beyond what we understand. We wouldn't even know what to look for." Well, cyber-bullying by Scott Rudin would be one thing I'd watch out for if I were her.

Angelina Jolie

Mindy Kaling debuts the Wreath Witherspoon on The Mindy Project. Below, Instagrammers have been posting their own versions of the wreath. NBC

Reese is a fan of Mindy's Wreath Witherspoon

Mindy Kaling has launched a new holiday tradition, with the introduction of the Wreath Witherspoon on The Mindy Project last week. And now the crafty home decoration — a traditional Christmas wreath adorned with photos of Oscar-winning actress Reese Witherspoon — has been given the seal of approval by Witherspoon herself. Witherspoon reposted Kaling's Instagram of various fan interpretations of the gag exclaiming, "Love it!" Maybe she'll even be making one herself this year.

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Throwing Marsala into your mix

Style. How to incorporate Pantone's colour of the year into your wardrobe

KATELYN ZBOROWSKI
Metro News in Toronto

When hearing the word 'Marsala' one may think of an Italian chicken dish or rich red wine. However, Pantone's recent unveiling of the 2015 colour of the year will surely leave the fashion world hearing (and seeing) a whole lot more of the perplexingly named hue. In fact, Marsala is poised to become one of the hottest and most in-demand colours of the New Year.

So what does a new must-have shade and Pantone's stamp of approval mean for you and your wardrobe? For one, it means switching up your black basics for something a little richer and slightly spicier.

But fashionable friends, there's no need to sweat. Metro has you covered — and stylishly so.

You'll see plenty of this bold and spicy brown-red on shelves, and in windows, as early as later this month. It never takes long for retailers to start featuring the New Year's official colour, especially with the holidays so near. From kitchenware and home decor to fashion and beauty — you'll have nothing but choice when it comes to what may very well be your new signature shade.

For ladies who crave a pop of colour but appreciate subtlety, Marsala will be your new best friend. The shade complements fair complexions and richens deep ones, making it a colour worthy of both your wardrobe and makeup bag.

Do you dare to go full Marsala this coming New Year? GETTY IMAGES

According to professional image consultant Christie Ressel, Kylie Jenner has been a huge fan over the last few months, regularly donning overdrawn lipstick in muted red-brown. The Jenner sister's regular Instagram updates and paparazzi snaps have only added to the colour's popularity in the beauty world.

Ressel also shares that Marsala is "muted" and "has a refined quality", making it pop in accessories and stand-out in separates.

"For a neutral look, consider pairing the shade with other warm-toned colours such as deep brown, beige or pea green," says Ressel. For more of a statement look, she advises opting for lilac, dusty rose or sky blue.

While its name may be new to the world of fashion, the colour itself has been seen on fall and winter runways for years.

Like black, Marsala can easily be used as a wardrobe staple in "wine-coloured boots, leather bags and leather coats", according to sought-after fashion stylist Talia Brown. She describes the shade as being, "very much in the brown family" and praises its ability to be both stark and subtle.

Brown recommends that men incorporate Marsala into their wardrobes in the forms of ties, scarves, and belts or even printed dress socks.

Challenge yourself to step away from the black, put down the grey and reach for Marsala in 2015. You'll be perfectly on-trend while investing in classic pieces that are set to withstand the test of time. It's not often a single shade accomplishes both, so be on the lookout for Pantone's colour of the year at your favourite stores next month.

Hue oughta know

- Fashion stylist Talia Brown cautions that while monochromatic Marsala may work in an evening gown, it can be a bit much for someone to pull off.
- She adds that Marsala may be a no-no when matched with fully saturated brights, such as cherry red or highlighter orange.

Making the best of the bold

"For a neutral look, consider pairing the shade with other warm-toned colours such as deep brown, beige or pea green."

Christie Ressel
Professional image consultant

4 must-haves in Marsala

Dooney & Bourke Bitsy Crossbody Bag

$158.40, thebay.com

TOPSHOP Bodycon Midi Dress

$40, thebay.com

Ocaria Heel

$24.99, aldoshoes.com

NARS Eye Shadow Single in New York

$28, murale.ca

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Canadian street style

Spotted in: Toronto

Name: Kate

Age: 27

Occupation: Photographer

What she's wearing
Santoni shoes, 6397 black jeans, Skodia shirt, Study NY denim blouse, and Alexander Wang jacket.

Her inspiration
"My style comes from good-quality clothing that is both classic and comfortable."

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Style. Pharrell Williams' fast and furious year in the world of fashion

Pharrell Williams AFP

Pharrell Williams might want to get some rest in 2015. The rapper/producer/singer/songwriter/designer/artist/most stylish man on the planet just hasn't stopped this year and is fast approaching global domination. Here's a look at some of the fun things he got up to infashion during the year 2014.

Uniqlo
In March the star was signed up as collaborator and spokesperson for Uniqlo's UT T-shirt line, with his creative collective 'i am OTHER' hitting stores later in the spring.

'That' hat
The hat that sparked a social media sensation when worn by Williams to the Grammy Awards subsequently went on display at the Newseum, Washington DC. Designed by Vivienne Westwood, the "Buffalo Hat" proved to be such a talking point that the singer later sold it on eBay, where it was bought up by fast food chain Arby's for $44,100, with proceeds going to charity.

Adidas
Global sportswear brand Adidas Originals snapped up Williams for a limited-edition collaboration unveiled this September with new product packages revealed each month throughout October, November and December.

Add to all this his ongoing G-Star RAW clothing collection , his star turn in a recent short film for Chanel and the fact that his single Happy was the most-streamed track of 2014 on Spotify, and you wonder how on earth the man is still standing.

AFP

Cherry's closets stuffed with suits

Style. Fashion comes at a cost for style icon of the hockey world

Don Cherry's wardrobes are overflowing.

The Hockey Night in Canada fashion plate keeps all his eye-popping suits. Not out of vanity, but out of necessity. He gave one away to charity some years ago and then was immediately flooded with requests with more.

Unable to fulfil all of them, he opted to hang on to them so he's not accused of favouritism.

That comes at a storage cost.

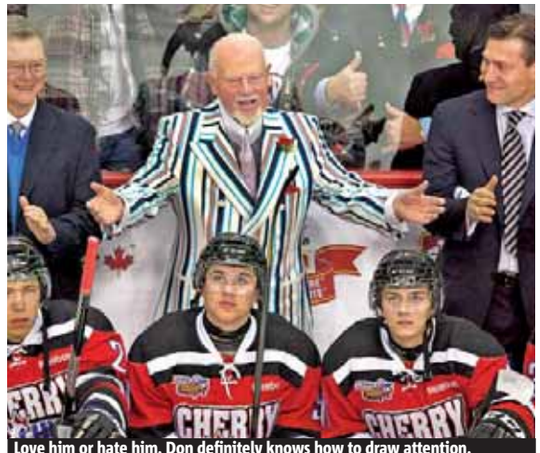
"I've got a bedroom full of suits and I've got every closet full of suits. My wife (Luba) has one little closet," the 80-year-old Cherry said in a recent interview.

"I don't wear them for two or three years and people kind of forget them. Some they don't forget. The pink one (he wore at Rob Ford's mayoral swearing-in) they never forget."

Cherry, who still gets the material for his suits from Fabricland, has no idea how many suits or shirts he has.

And he is grateful for his wife's patience when it comes to his trademark clothes. "She puts up with it anyhow."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Love him or hate him, Don definitely knows how to draw attention.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Designing the perfect Christmas tree

Got a great-looking place? Then you need a chic Christmas tree to stand out in style during the holidays. Whether you've chosen a real or artificial tree, decorate it using a few of these alternative design solutions

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

ALL PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED

A theme come true

Coming up with a styled theme can be most difficult as each year holiday trends change, requiring new ornaments. Invest in a colour you have always liked. Gold, red or silver are classic winners for holiday tree ornaments. Seventy per cent of your ornaments should include this colour. The remaining 30 per cent can incorporate a current trend and be changed up every two-to-three years. This year, look for turquoise, rust and black as trend options. Any one of them can be worked in with your main colour with ease.

Ornament to be

Hanging larger ornaments close to the bottom and smaller one close to the top always works for good proportions. Many glass-looking ornaments are unbreakable. Look for these, especially for the larger ornaments near the bottom of the tree. Pick a sweet theme that will leave you calorie-free. **Macaroon Ornament Set, $14, UrbanOutfitter.com**

More than one way to skirt a tree

Always finish your tree with a skirt to hide the stand and any light cords — leaving it bare is a big decorator no-no. The skirt should help complete your tree's decor theme. For instance, if your accent or trend colour is turquoise, then that's the colour to use for your skirt. Consider using plaid blankets, fur throws or even a holiday printed tablecloth at the bottom of the tree. Tree collars are a new way to hide the under-tree chaos. **Galvanized and Wicker Tree collars, $80, CrateAndBarrel.com**

In a good light

New LED string lights are longer-lasting and energy efficient. Look for warm white lights (not the cool blue-ish ones) to create a flattering glow of light. Purchase 80 to 100 lights per each foot of the tree's height. Combine new technology with some retro appeal and you've got lighting that will last year to year. **Lord & Taylor 25 Indoor LED Pearl Warm White Lights, $25, TheBay.com**

Take it from the top

The most-forgotten element of the tree always seems to be the topper. No longer does the topper need to be in the form of a star or an angel. Consider decorative resin antlers, everlasting flowers, straw-crafted birds (owls are still big this year), birdhouses or large ribbon bows in lieu of the traditional tree-topper. **Pinecone and glitter peace sign tree topper, $100, PotteryBarn.com**

Christmas morning table

For many, the holidays can be a time for starting new traditions. And if there's one tradition style gurus Steven and Chris never miss out on, it's Christmas morning brunch! Who doesn't love waking up Christmas morning to discover an exciting dining table decked with holiday cheer? Here are some tips from the guys on how to set a table that'll get everyone talking. Steven and Chris airs Monday to Friday at 2 p.m. EST on CBC Television.

TEXT BY MICHAEL PIHACH. PHOTOS BY ALEXIS GLINERT.

Santa's been here!

Need proof that Santa's sleigh swooped by? Simply use a large boot as a stencil and sprinkle powdered sugar or fake snow around it so that it creates a footprint. Lead some prints directly from the front door or fireplace directly to your morning table. Watch: your Kids will freak!

Holiday robes for everyone

There's nothing better than spending Christmas morning lounging around in a warm robe. Buy a holiday robe for all the members of your family and attach to their chairs at the table. Add everybody's names to a tag as an indicator as to who sits where. Consider it everybody's "first gift of the day," plus it'll start the day off on a cozy note!

Who wants to be a millionaire?

Place a lottery scratch ticket along with a mini liqueur and chocolates into a tiny box and place one at each person's seat. Decorate the box with ribbon and top it off with a party cracker. Everyone can scratch their tickets and talk about what they'd do if they won a million dollars. (Hey, it could happen!)

Unleash your inner cookie monster

Holidays are a time to indulge for both kids and grown-ups. Give your table a sweet focal point by making a cookie tree forest centrepiece. Buy store-bought cookie dough (or make your own) and mold a set of cookies into mini Christmas trees. Insert popsicle sticks into the base of the tree and then bake. Paint the baked cookies with green icing; let dry. Get a trough or container and insert a foam block wrapped in a sheet of moss or fake snow. Stick the tree cookies into the foam and presto! You'll have a cookie forest that'll last all day.

Cookbook of the Week

The gift of yum

The next time you're giving, skip the mass-produced items and crack open Handmade Gifts from the Kitchen by Alison Walker. The book offers more than 100 gift ideas with easy-to-follow recipes and ideas of presentation — including decorative jars, tins, baskets and boxes to add a personal touch that ensures your gift will be remembered long after it's eaten. Recipes include Earl Grey Hearts, Popcorn Bark, Peanut Brittle, Bourbon Peaches, Lemon Syrup Loaf Cakes and Sesame Snaps. **METRO**

Surprise Santa with something original

White Chocolate and Rosemary Truffles. The guy in the red suit will appreciate these sweet little bites a lot more than boring cookies

1. Put the cream and rosemary in a small pan and bring to a boil — this is important, otherwise the ganache won't thicken when beaten. Put the chocolate into a heatproof bowl. Pour over the cream and rosemary and stir once or twice.

2. Set the bowl over a pan of very gently simmering water, add the corn syrup and butter. Let melt, stirring once or twice to combine. Set aside until cooled to room temperature.

3. Discard the rosemary. When cool, beat the mixture with an electric mixer until soft, fluffy, and paler in colour. Pour into a lightly oiled disposable foil container (7 inches x 5 inches) and put into the refrigerator to set.

4. Lay out a large piece of parchment paper on your counter and dust liberally with confectioners' sugar.

5. Retrieve the foil container from the refrigerator and snip its edges so that you can carefully peel them away. Turn out the truffle block onto a board. Cut into 1 1/4-inch cubes (you'll need to clean the knife with paper towels every few cuts) and transfer the truffles to the parchment paper as you go.

6. Dust the truffle cubes with more confectioners' sugar and roll, pressing gently, to cover them completely.

7. Transfer the truffles to petit-four paper cups and arrange in lidded boxes. Store in the refrigerator, where they can last for up to two weeks.

Ingredients

- Scant 1/2 cup heavy cream
- A large sprig rosemary
- 7 oz white chocolate, broken into pieces
- 1 tbsp corn syrup
- 2 tbsp unsalted butter
- Sunflower oil, for greasing
- Confectioners' sugar, for dusting

This recipe makes 30 chocolates. TARA FISHER

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Snack. Smoky Nuts

This recipe makes two cups. TARA FISHER

"These nuts look fantastic packaged simply in cellophane with ribbon or tape or in a compartmentalized box.

"If you or a friend likes their nuts spicier, then simply add in a couple of pinches of chile powder with the paprika," writes Alison Walker in Handmade Gifts from the Kitchen.

These nuts keep for up to two weeks in an airtight container or sealed plastic bag.

1. Preheat the oven to 350 F.

2. Toss the nuts together or each type separately in the oil, depending on how you want to package them. Roast in a preheated oven for 5 to 10 minutes until golden.

3. Remove from the oven, then immediately toss in the salt and paprika, and let cool.

Ingredients

- 2 cups mixed nuts, such as cashews, blanched almonds, macadamias, and brazil nuts
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tsp sea salt
- 1 tsp smoked paprika

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4 SPORTS

Flames

Hartley rewarded with extension

The Calgary Flames are locking up head coach Bob Hartley to a multi-year contract extension.

He has guided the NHL team to a 17-14-2 record this season.

The Flames are tied for eighth place in the Western Conference standings with 36 points.

The announcement comes with Calgary mired in a six-game losing skid.

Hartley has led the Flames to a 71-79-13 mark since he was hired in May 2012.

He has coached in several leagues over his career and was previously an NHL head coach with the Colorado Avalanche and Atlanta Thrashers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Predators

League fines Neal for diving

The NHL fined Nashville Predators forward James Neal $2,000 US for diving on Wednesday, making him the first player to be fined under a new league initiative to crack down on embellishment.

Neal was assessed a two-minute minor penalty for embellishment at 19:39 of the third period of Nashville's 2-0 loss in San Jose on Saturday.

It was Neal's second citation for embellishment this season, which triggered the automatic fine.

Under the new rules, a player's coach also gets fined upon his fourth offence and subsequent infractions. The fines for coaches begin at $2,000.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Zibanejad playing up to his draft pick

THE HOCKEY NEWS
Murray Pam
ottawa@metronews.ca

The Senators' Mika Zibanejad scores past Canucks goalie Eddie Lack on Dec. 7 at the Canadian Tire Centre. Zibanejad had recorded nine points in the eight games prior Wednesday night. JANA CHYTILOVA/FREESTYLE PHOTOGRAPHY/GETTY IMAGES

It may have been a tad unfair, but Senators management and coaching staff placed a lot of weight on the 21-year-old shoulders of Mika Zibanejad to open the season. Zibanejad was thrust into the role of de facto second-line centre behind Kyle Turris.

A notoriously slow starter, Zibanejad was held off the scoresheet in his first eight games. It appeared he wasn't ready to elevate his game — and was even shifted to the wing on several occasions.

In 2011 as an 18-year-old, Zibanejad picked up an assist in his first NHL game before going pointless in his next eight — leading to a return to Djurgardens in Sweden for the remainder of the campaign.

Last season, after a less than stellar training camp, Zibanejad was dispatched to Senators AHL affiliate Binghamton for six games before being recalled. To his credit, the six-foot-two, 211-pounder completed a decent season, notching 16 goals and 33 points.

Twenty-eight games into his third full season, Mika Zibanejad may finally be molding into the player worthy of being the sixth overall selection in the 2011 Entry Draft.

But it took a two-game benching by then-coach Paul MacLean, to light a fire under Zibanejad.

Since sitting, the Stockholm, Sweden native is playing arguably the best hockey of his budding career. Zibanejad has picked up five goals and nine points in eight games, including a game-high four points versus the Canucks on Dec. 7 in what turned out to be MacLean's final hurrah. Having linemates such as Mike Hoffman and Bobby Ryan can't hurt either.

The trio is the league's hottest, combining for 17 points in only six games.

His recent efforts haven't been lost on his teammates. Chris Neil chimed that, "He's an unbelievable player. A lot of people underrate him."

Meanwhile, Ryan raved about Zibanejad's potential: "When he's moving and generating speed in the middle, he doesn't know how good he is."

Zibanejad didn't stew when he was out of the lineup. "Those two games I didn't play were more of a message to dictate and play with instinct and not overthinking, not standing around waiting for something to happen," he said.

Despite Zibanejad's one-time foray as a nightclub DJ, he's generally a quiet person who is barely audible in post-game scrums. However, lately Zibanejad is allowing his stick to do his talking.

Closer look at Corsi

Corsi seasonal even-strength numbers for the line of Mike Hoffman, Mika Zibanejad and Bobby Ryan.

	CE*	CF%**
Mike Hoffman	620	53.23
Mika Zibanejad	690	49.13
Bobby Ryan	756	47.35

*Corsi events = shots + missed shots + blocked shots
**Corsi for percentage = Corsi for / (Corsi for + Corsi against)

STATS COURTESY OF NATURALSTATTRICK.COM

NFL. Newton questionable to start against Browns

Cam Newton returned to practice Wednesday eight days after a horrific-looking automobile accident left him with two fractures in his lower back.

Whether or not he starts Sunday against the Cleveland Browns remains unclear.

Panthers coach Ron Rivera said the team put Newton through a "rigorous" rehab schedule and will now wait to see how much soreness he feels on Thursday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cam Newton could return to action Sunday. STREETER LECKA/GETTY IMAGES

League Cup

Liverpool, Chelsea to meet in semis

Liverpool will play Chelsea in the League Cup semifinals after Raheem Sterling scored twice in a 3-1 victory over second-tier Bournemouth on Wednesday.

Lazar Markovic scored between Sterling's first goals since September as Liverpool won on the south coast.

Meanwhile, Tottenham coasted to a win of its own with a 4-0 rout of Newcastle. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CFL. Blue Bombers sack defensive co-ordinator

The Winnipeg Blue Bombers fired defensive co-ordinator Gary Etcheverry on Wednesday.

He spent less than one year in the position.

The Blue Bombers missed the playoffs after finishing last in the CFL West Division standings with a 7-11 record.

Etcheverry, who was hired last February, previously served as a defensive co-ordinator in Saskatchewan (2000, 2009, 2010), Ottawa (2004), B.C., (2001) and Toronto (1999).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"The reality of the situation is such that we simply weren't good enough on the defensive side of the football this season."

Blue Bombers head coach Mike O'Shea

Furious at FIFA: Garcia resigns

World Cup bidding scandal. Lawyer and FIFA ethics committee member steps down in protest at the handling of his report

The American lawyer who led the investigation into the 2018 and 2022 World Cup bid process resigned from the FIFA ethics committee on Wednesday in protest over the handling of his findings.

Michael Garcia cited a "lack of leadership" at the top of FIFA in a resignation statement. He also said he has lost confidence in the independence of his ethics committee colleague, German judge Joachim Eckert.

Though Garcia did not identify Sepp Blatter by name, he also revealed that the FIFA executive committee — led by the longtime president — made a failed complaint of unethical conduct against the former U.S. Attorney in September.

Speaking at the Club World Cup in Marrakech, Morocco, Blatter told The Associated Press he was stunned by Garcia's decision to resign.

Garcia quit a day after the FIFA appeals panel rejected his challenge of Eckert's summary of the confidential 430-page investigation dossier. Last month, Eckert moved to close the case on the World Cup bidding contest because of lack of evidence.

Russia won the right to host the 2018 World Cup and Qatar was awarded the 2022 tournament. After Eckert's summary was made public, Garcia claimed that the German judge had misrepresented his work and then launched his failed appeal.

"(My) report identified serious and wide-ranging issues with the bidding and (World Cup host) selection process," Garcia wrote Wednesday, adding that Eckert's decision "made me lose confidence in the independence of the Adjudicatory Chamber, (but) it is the lack of leadership on these issues within FIFA that leads me to conclude that my role in this process is at an end."

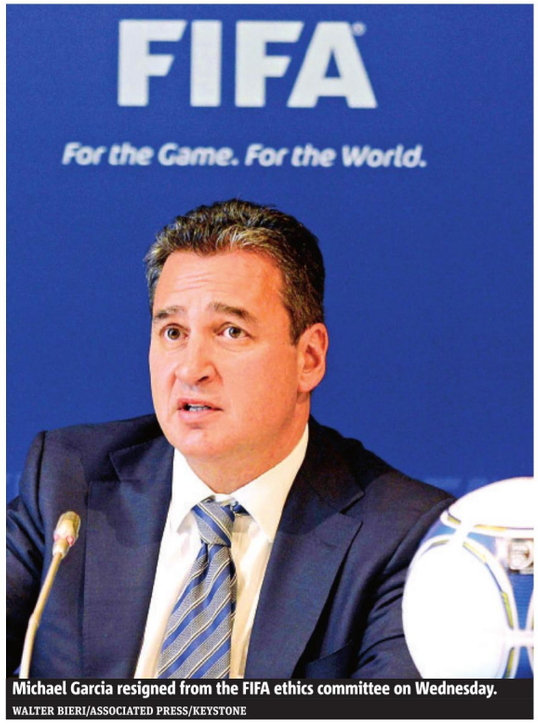
In his resignation statement, Garcia also questioned how FIFA can truly change after years of scandals and criticism.

"No independent governance committee, investigator, or arbitration panel can change the culture of an organization," Garcia wrote.

Garcia also revealed that the executive committee tried to have disciplinary proceedings opened against him for "allegedly violating the Code of Ethics through my public comments." The attempt was rejected by the chairman of the FIFA disciplinary panel, at a time when Garcia pressed for publication of key details from his report. FIFA vice-president Michel Platini, also the UEFA president, called Wednesday's events "a new failure for FIFA."

"FIFA's ethics committee was created to increase transparency at the organization, that's what we wanted, but in the end it has just caused more confusion," said Platini, the former France great.

Eckert said any corrupt and rule-breaking acts were of limited scope and did not influence the result of the December 2010 votes of the FIFA executive committee. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Michael Garcia resigned from the FIFA ethics committee on Wednesday.
WALTER BIERI/ASSOCIATED PRESS/KEYSTONE

What happens next?

"It now appears that, at least for the foreseeable future, the Eckert Decision will stand as the final word on the 2018/2022 FIFA World Cup bidding process," Michael Garcia wrote. Garcia passed up the chance to stay and pursue his appeal against Eckert at the Court of Arbitration for Sport, which would likely take several months. Still, prosecutions launched by Garcia against five senior football officials for alleged wrongdoing in the World Cup campaigns will continue. Those cases can be led by his ethics investigation deputy, Zurich-based former public prosecutor Cornel Borbely. Germany great Franz Beckenbauer, a voting member of the FIFA executive committee in December 2010, is the highest profile of the five accused men.
Three current board members — FIFA vice-president Angel Maria Villar of Spain, Michel D'Hooghe of Belgium and Worawi Makudi of Thailand — also face sanctions for their actions during contests marred by claims of bribery, collusion and favour-seeking.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You may be in a charitable mood but don't give away too much. Your luck is changing for the better but you still need to make sure you have enough to cover unforeseen setbacks.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
What happens over the next few days may be unsettling but the planets promise you will do very well thanks to the changes that take place.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
This is a time of major changes for you that will accelerate when the Sun moves into Capricorn at the weekend, so get plenty of rest. You'll need it.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
There is no point starting a fight you know you cannot win. For some strange reason you feel you must prove yourself to the world, but that isn't true. Besides, what does it prove if you end up flat on your back?

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Let matters develop at their own pace today, especially on the work front where things are moving so fast that there is no point in trying to change them.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Someone may try to persuade you that a course of action is in your interests but you have doubts. Listen to your instincts and act on what they tell you.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
There may be exciting things going on in your social environment but you must ignore them all and focus on getting a family matter sorted.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Someone you work with will disagree with your plans today but there is no way you are going to change them. Tell them you understand their concerns then carry on exactly the same as before.

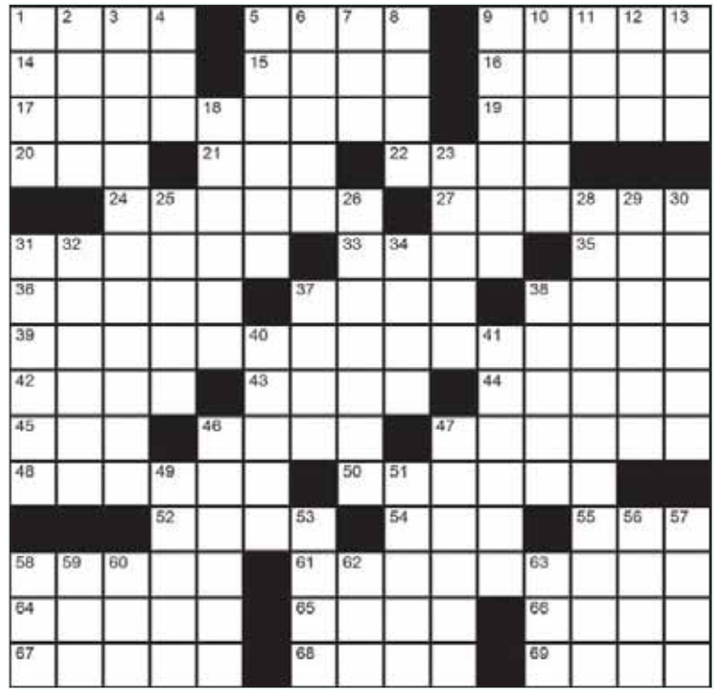
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Do you give a colleague your support and risk falling out with someone in authority? Or do you side with the powers that be and risk losing a friend? Only you can decide but it's got to be one or the other.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The new moon on the 22nd will do wonders for your courage. Between now and then, keep a low profile and save energy.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Focus on something creative you can do alone. You may be sociable but sometimes you need to be alone to get the best from your abilities.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You won't find it hard to persuade partners and colleagues to follow your lead today but don't use force. If you do, they will drag their feet.

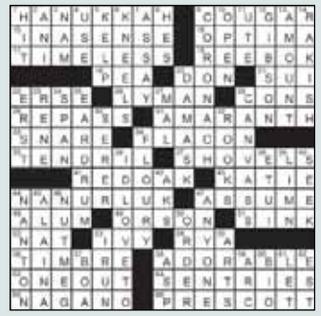
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. Dutch artist, Rembrandt van __
5. __ Buy (Electronics store)
9. 1885: Canada's first national park
14. KT Tunstall's "Suddenly _ __"
15. Mixture
16. Ring-shaped coral island with a lagoon in the middle
17. Vancouver Island: __ Goose Regional Trail
19. Mr. Bear
20. Li'l ocean
21. Reckon
22. __ _ few moments (Rested briefly)
24. Admiration
27. Nearly
31. Escalate: 2 wds.
33. Superior at a French monastery
35. Phantom's scare!
36. Haven
37. "No __!" (It was no big deal!)
38. "Heat of the Moment" band
39. Wristbands that monitor things like steps taken and calories burned: 2 wds.
42. Ice mass
43. Infliction
44. Quebec stop sign word
45. 'Restrict' suffix
46. __ '_' Hers
47. Removes any doubt
48. Alex __, Canadian host of "Jeopardy!"
50. Moviedom's Ms. Miller
52. Guitar bar
54. Glaswegian's 'No'
55. Even if, briefly
58. Stringed instrument
61. Song by Canadian band Streetheart that goes "How'd you get the car, those diamonds and pearls..."
64. Bird-related
65. Sailing direction
66. Highlands tongue
67. Actress Naomi
68. Taken back [abbr.]
69. Hairstyling hues

Down
1. Capital of Latvia
2. Time __ __ a premium
3. "Money (Part 1)" Canadian Hip-Hop artist
4. First word in Inferno by Dante
5. Storied shepherdess, with Little: 2 wds.
6. Upper crust
7. Canuck ID
8. Clothes
9. __ Harbour (Labrador community)
10. "The _ __" by Ed Sheeran
11. Fall asleep, __ off
12. Do dry-clothes-taken-from-the-dryer work, briefly
13. Be an Air Canada passenger
18. Dense
23. Limerick's rhyming pattern
25. Back
26. Hamilton-born comedian Mr. Short's
28. Scientific lookout station
29. Nighttime get together
30. Wedding reception speeches
31. Roof's overhang underside
32. Bespoke clothing professional
34. "A Star Is __" (1976)
37. Community commercials, curtly
38. Ohio city
40. Railway track fastener
41. Art of "The Honeymooners"
46. Wading birds
47. Rang loudly
49. A Sharp sometimes, _ __
51. Cove
53. "__ she blows!"
56. Outdoor tap hookup
57. Poetic pieces
58. Canuck priv. sectr union
59. Ms. Longoria
60. English __.
62. Toreador's taunt
63. Pre-Thurs. day

Yesterday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

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Yesterday's Sudoku

7	6	1	2	3	4	8	5	9
8	2	4	6	9	5	1	7	3
3	9	5	8	1	7	4	6	2
1	5	3	7	2	6	9	8	4
6	8	9	5	4	3	7	2	1
4	7	2	9	8	1	6	3	5
2	4	8	3	7	9	5	1	6
9	3	6	1	5	8	2	4	7
5	1	7	4	6	2	3	9	8

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